

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 SAM-01 OMB-01 EUR-12 ARA-06

INT-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 /103 W
----- 103860

R 140950Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 823

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI FOR POLAD

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

DEA BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #2

1. DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI (LOU)

PASSING OF PREMIER CHOU PROMPTED SERIES OF CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM NE WIN AND OTHER TOP GUB LEADERS AS WELL AS FROM BCP CHAIR-T MAN THANKIN BA THEIN TIN. NE WIN'S MESSAGE AND THAT OF THE BCP ARE QUITE SIMILAR, BOTH EXPRESSING DEEP GRIEF AND SENSE OF LOSS. NE WIN NOTES CHOU "WAS A STATESMAN OF TOWERING STATURE (AND) A PERSONAL FRIEND WHO REMAINED CONSTANT AND TRUE AMIDST THE WINDS OF CHANGE". SIMILARLY, THE BCP CLAIMED CHOU "MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE BCP AND CCP...AND WON THE

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WHOLE-HEARTED LOVE, RESPECT AND ADMIRATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

OF BURMA". LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE DRAWING ON INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES REPORTING HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE, BUT SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF CHOU'S DEATH WILL POSTPONE THE REPORTED VISIT OF DEPUTY PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING EARLY THIS YEAR.

2. FONMIN RETURNS FROM HANOI (LOU)

FOREIGN MINISTER HLA PHONE RETURNED JANUARY 10 FROM A FOUR DAY "GOOD WILL" VISIT TO HANOI DURING WHICH HE CALLED ON PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG. NO REASON FOR TRIP WAS GIVEN ALTHOUGH SPECULATION CONTINUES THAT NE WIN MAY BE PLANNING A TRIP TO HANOI; VISIT COULD ALSO BE PART OF BURMA'S REASSESSMENT OF RELATIONS IN THE REGION IN LIGHT OF THE "NEW REALITIES" OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. INTERESTINGLY, THE ONLY TWO OFFICIALS FROM RANGOON WHO ACCOMPANIED THE FOREIGN MINISTER WERE THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF MFA'S ECONOMIC DIVISION ALTHOUGH THERE IS LITTLE TRADE OR OTHER ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. GUB CABINET RESHUFFLED (LOU)

NE WIN'S IRE OVER CHRISTMAS EVE DANCE AT INYA LAKE HOTEL FORCED RESIGNATION OF TRADE MINISTER U SAN WIN AND REQUIRED MINOR RESHUFFLE OF GUB CABINET. U HLA AYE NAMED AS TRADE MINISTER TO SUCCEED U SAN WIN, AND U HLA AYE'S FORMER POSITION AS MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY (1) GIVEN TO U MAUNG CHO WHO WILL ALSO RETAIN HIS PORTFOLIO AS MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY (2). THESE PERSONNEL CHANGES REPRESENT NO GUB POLICY SHIFTS IN TRADE OR INDUSTRIAL SECTORS. (RANGOON 0066).

4. INDICATIONS OF TROUBLE IN PRESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD (CONF)

VERNACULAR EDITION OF WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY JANUARY 8 CARRIED INCONSPICUOUS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DAW HTA HTA MYINT HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR BUYING 79,000 KYAT WORTH OF TEXTILES FROM TRADE CORPORATION 5, AND THEN RESELLING IT ON BLACK MARKET. DAW HTA HTA MYINT IS THE SISTER OF PRESIDENT NE WIN'S WIFE, DAW NI NI MYINT. DAW HTA HTA MYINT'S LOSS OF IMMUNITY TENDS TO CONFIRM RUMORS CIRCULATING IN RANGOON THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL MARRIAGE IS ON THE ROCKS, AND THAT DIVORCE MAY BE FORTHCOMING. SPECULATION IS WIDESPREAD THAT ILLEGAL DEALINGS MAY ALSO HAVE INVOLVED EX-TRADE MINISTER SAN WIN (ITEM 3) AND COULD BE AT LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DOWNFALL.

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5. COPPER DELEGATION DEPARTS (UNCLAS)

FOUR MAN DELEGATION HEADED BY COLONEL THAN TIN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES, DEPARTED RANGOON JANUARY 12 ON VISIT TO COPPER MINING FACILITIES IN PERU, UNITED STATES AND ITALY. GROUP ALSO WILL VISIT FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, POSSIBLY TO STUDY USE OF GAS AND COAL IN PRODUCTION OF STEEL, SINCE THIS ADDITIONAL GOAL CONTAINED IN PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF GROUP'S DEPARTURE.

6. NEW F-27 FOR BURMA'S DOMESTIC AIR SERVICE (UNCLAS)

NEW F-27 ARRIVED FROM AMSTERDAM JANUARY 5 TO BOLSTER BURMA'S DOMESTIC AIR FLEET WHICH HAS BEEN HARD PRESSED TO MAINTAIN SCHEDULED SERVICE DUE LARGELY TO SHORTAGE OF PLANES IN OPERATION. HOWEVER, THIS ADDITION WILL DO LITTLE MORE THAN MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO FOR TIME BEING AS ANOTHER BURMA AIRWAYS F-27 SUFFERED DAMAGED LANDING GEAR WHEN IT TOUCHED DOWN AT HEHO ON JANUARY 10 AND WILL BE OUT OF SERVICE FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.

7. IDA LOAN FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT (UNCLAS)

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION GRANTED \$7.5 MILLION LOAN FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN BURMA UNDER AN IBRD/FAO COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. PROJECT, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1981, INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT OF VETERINARIAN AND LIVESTOCK EXTENSION SERVICES, IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNAL PASTURE LAND, ESTABLISHMENT OF BREEDING CENTERS, ASSISTANCE FOR SMALLHOLDER DAIRY PRODUCTION, CONSTRUCTION OF MILK PROCESSING PLANT AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY WILL BE NEWLY FORMED ANIMAL HUSBANDRY CORPORATION (WEEKA #47, ITEM 10). LOAN IS INTEREST FREE EXCEPT FOR SMALL ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGE AND WILL RUN FOR 50 YEARS WITH 10 YEAR GRACE PERIOD.

HOWARTH

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